

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of all claims now pending in the above-identified patent application (i.e., Claims 14-23) are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, it should be recognized that the present invention provides an improved caravan having a lower body portion and an upper body portion with means for hingedly connecting the lower body portion to the upper body portion at one end of the caravan. The means for hingedly connecting include at least one hinge member for allowing the upper body portion to rotate relative to the lower body portion about an axis created by the least one hinge member from a first position, where the upper body portion and the lower body portion are in close abutment, to a second position, where the upper body portion and the lower body portion have been rotated a predetermined distance about the hinge member, so that the upper body portion is elevated above the lower body portion and no longer in close abutment to the lower body portion. Means for elevating the upper body portion relative to the lower body portion, about the hinge member, from the first position to the second position, and vice-versa, are included. The caravan further includes side extension members that are in a substantially horizontal orientation when

the upper body portion and the lower body portion are in their first position and being in a substantially vertical orientation when the upper body portion and said lower body portion are in their second position, so that in the second position, the substantially vertical orientation of the side extension members provides headroom within a substantial interior area of the caravan, with a foldable side door for accessing the interior area being provided.

As will be explained in greater detail hereinafter, nowhere in the prior art is such a novel and efficient caravan for travel either disclosed or suggested.

By the present amendments, Applicant has cancelled prior Claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13 (Claims 4 and 12 having been previously cancelled) and has entered new Claims 14-23, of which Claim 14 is presented in independent form, in order to recite the inclusion of a foldable side door for accessing the interior of the caravan when the upper and lower body portions are in their second position (i.e., not in close abutment); to recite that the upper and lower body portions are connected at one end of the caravan; and to place the claims in conformance with U.S. claim practice and to address, and overcome, the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, indefiniteness rejection of the first Office Action.

As to the Examiner's indefiniteness rejection, new independent Claim 14 avoids use of the term "they," which is

often considered to be indefinite, and specifies that the upper body portion rotates relative to the lower body portion; the lower body portion, itself, does not literally rotate.

In view of the entry of new Claims 14-23, Applicant respectfully contends that the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, indefiniteness rejection has been overcome and should now be appropriately withdrawn.

As part of the first Office Action, the Examiner issued an objection to the drawing figures of record, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a), on the ground that the drawings did not show the "storage compartment [as] being removable," as originally recited in Claims 10 and 11. The subject matter of Claims 10 and 11 has been deleted from the claims (i.e., is not recited as part of new Claims 14-23) and, accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) drawing objection is now respectfully requested.

Applicant has also presented a substitute Abstract, on a separate sheet of paper, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b) and the Examiner, which conforms with U.S. practice.

Turning now, in detail, to the Examiner's prior art rejection of Applicant's claims, in the first Office Action the Examiner has rejected the subject matter of Claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 13 (now Claims 14-18, 20 and 23) as being antici-

pated, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b), by Spencer, U.S. Patent No. 2,920,919. It is the Examiner's contention that Spencer discloses a caravan having a lower body portion and an upper body portion, which is hingedly connected by means of at least one hinge member, such that the upper body portion may rotate relative to the lower body portion by means of an elevation mechanism, and further including side extension members, substantially as claimed by the instant Applicant.

In reply to the Examiner's anticipation rejection applying Spencer, the present invention, as now most broadly recited in new independent Claim 14 (and Claims 15-23 via dependency) includes the recitation of "a foldable side door for accessing said substantial interior area having been provided with said headroom when said side extension members are in said substantially vertical orientation." Spencer fails to show or suggest the inclusion of a side door, let alone a "foldable" side door, for accessing the interior of the caravan when the upper body portion is in an elevated position relative to the lower body portion and, in this respect, Spencer cannot be seen as anticipating the present invention, as now claimed.

Further, Spencer shows a portion camping trailer having upper and lower body portions that are connected at more than just one end by hinge means and, further, utilizing body components, such as those illustrated in FIG. 11 of the applied

reference for telescopically lifting the upper body portion therein, unlike that which is being claimed by the instant Applicant.

Consequently, Spencer, which lacks a foldable side access door, and utilizes a telescopic lifting mechanism, cannot reasonably be viewed as either anticipating, nor rendering obvious, the present invention, as now claimed by Applicant.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102(b) anticipation rejection of the first Office Action, which applies Spencer, should now be appropriately withdrawn.

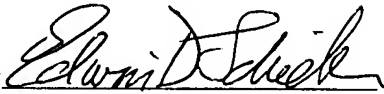
Concerning, finally, the remaining references made of record by the Examiner, but not applied in any rejection of Applicant's claims, such additional art references have been carefully considered, but are not believed to adversely affect the patentability of the present invention, as claimed.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully contended that all claims now pending in the above-identified patent application (i.e., Claims 14-23) recite a novel and efficient caravan for travel, which includes a foldable side access door and having hinge means for connecting the upper and lower body portions thereof at only one end, which is patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Accordingly,

withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejection and
the allowance of all claims now pending are respectfully
requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc.: Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit
Account of Applicant's Attorney, Account No. 19-0450, for any
additional fees which may be due in connection with the
prosecution of the present application, but which have not
otherwise been provided for.